Brussels. The latter are in the style of Lorenzo Ghiberti, and are expected to rival the works of that artist in the baptistery at Florence."

One or two of the plates are a little sickly in tone, as, for example, Minton's vases, and the specimens of glass, but for the most part they are beautiful specimens of lithography.

Notes on the Distribution of Gold throughout the World, including Australia, California, and Russia. With Four Maps. London: James Wyld.

The spirited and enterprising geographer to the Queen is ever ready to aid in enlightening the public on any popular subject of interest throughout the world. And as the Age of Gold appears to be now setting in, he presents us, *à propos*, with a half-crown's worth of maps and notes of all the known or celebrated gold regions throughout the world. The maps consist of one of the World, showing the gold districts; one of the Australian gold districts; one of the gold district from Bathurst to Sydney; and one of the Californian gold districts. The notes comprise a sort of little history of gold hunting, and the whole is appropriately dedicated to Sir Roderick Murchison, the celebrated geologist, who predicted the discovery of our own gold mines in Australia. Mr. Wyld by no means encourages a "run upon gold." His discreet opinion is, that gold digging, however large in its nominal returns, is not, as a pursuit, more productive of net profit than others. Only it does open up a new fountain of wealth more glitteringly attractive to some minds and habits than others, and especially to a restless order of men, many of whom it is better to have engaged in such a branch of industry, however irregular or exciting, than in previous pursuits.

Reports to the Health Committee of the Borough of Liverpool. By the Borough Engineer, Inspector of Nuisances, and Medical Officer of Health. Liverpool, 1851.

From the first of these reports it appears that since June, 1847, no less than 17 miles of sewers have been constructed,—a length equal to about one-tenth part of the total length of existing roads in the borough. The Health Committee have generally selected for execution such works as in the opinion of the medical officer of health would most effectually contribute to remove the causes of disease, and we are pleased, though not in the least surprised, to find that the results have abundantly justified this course of procedure. The general scheme of sewerage and drainage set forth by Mr. Newlands, the borough engineer, and approved of in 1848, is thus in a fair way to final accomplishment. His present report contains plans showing the details of the Liverpool mode of house drainage, and also of course descriptive matter explanative of these plans. It likewise contains information on the paving of the streets, worthy of perusal. The sanitary and other statistics in the two latter reports are instructive and valuable.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.—At the anniversary meeting of this society, held on Friday week at Edinburgh, a report submitted to the meeting, conveyed the intelligence that negotiations long pending with the Treasury had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion; and that by a deed drawn up and signed, the society have made over to the Crown, as national property, the whole collections of antiquities formed by them during the last seventy years, to form the nucleus of a National Archæological Museum for Scotland. The Treasury have, on their part, vested the curatorship of the collection permanently in the hands of the society's office-bearers, and become bound, so soon as the new gallery on the Mound is finished, to fit up the entire suite of rooms occupying the north and west sides of the Royal Institution buildings on the upper floor, for the accommodation of the society's collections and meetings. At this meeting several honorary members were elected, among whom were the city architect, Mr. D. Cousins, and Sir John Watson Gordon, Kt., P.R.A.

Miscellanea.

Railway Jottings.—The total amount received for traffic on the London and North-Western Railway, for the week ending Nov. 30, was 40,021*l.* (corresponding week in 1850, 38,508*l.*) Midland and Bristol and Birmingham, for the week ending Nov. 23, 21,407*l.* (corresponding week in 1850, 20,529*l.*) North Staffordshire (Railway and Canal), for the week ending Nov. 23, 4,614*l.* (corresponding week in 1850, 4,351*l.*, exclusive of receipts available under agreement with London and North-Western). Great Western, week ending Nov. 23, 14,353*l.* (corresponding week in 1850, 13,138*l.*) Great Northern, week ending Nov. 23, 10,360*l.* (corresponding week, 1850, 6,140*l.*)——The great railway bridge and viaduct at Chepstow is rapidly progressing. The structure is so far advanced, that an idea of the bridge may be formed. Numerous visitors have already been to see it, and its fame is likely to vie with that of the Britannia or Menai-bridge. The whole will be made of wrought-iron, and will combine the principles of the suspension with those of the tubular bridges. Including the viaduct, the bridge is 623 feet in length; the span or suspension part being 290 feet. There are two separate roadways, each being perfectly independent of the other, and their height is 70 feet over the river Wye at high-water mark, so that vessels can pass under. On the Chepstow side, the roadways rest on six upright iron cylinders, filled with concrete, and driven firmly in a foundation of rock. The roadways on this side are continued in the form of a viaduct for about 300 feet more, resting on these upright cylinders, filled with concrete, and firmly imbedded. On the east side, the roadways rest upon solid work. The masonry is in a forward state.

Water Supply and Drainage of Southampton.—The supply of water at the present moment is from the Common Well 121,250 gallons per twenty-four hours; from Northam, 31,500; Sugar House, 37,632; and from the Springs 35,309; making a total of 225,689 gallons per twenty-four hours. Mr. Ranger in his report estimates the amount required per day at 700,000 gallons.——A correspondent, with reference to the drainage, draws our attention to the fact that the corporation are about to borrow another 20,000*l.* to throw into what he calls "their big ditch which they call sometimes a *drain*, sometimes a sewer, but which, in point of fact, is neither drain nor sewer, but a continuous chain of cesspools."

Electro-telegraphic Progress.—The seal of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company has been affixed to an agreement with the British Telegraph Company, enabling them to use the whole of the lines of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company for telegraph purposes. The British Company are now, it is said, about earnestly to commence operations, having issued specifications for poles and fixing to a considerable extent.——If all be true that is said of the magnetic telegraph, our "electro-telegraphic progress" must shortly be changed into "magneto-telegraphic progress," and the galvanic battery be altogether dispensed with. We seem to be approximating still nearer to the ancient idea of "the magnetic telegraph" with its magnets and its sympathetic alphabets, and may ultimately find that even the electro-magnetic telegraph is but a sorry invention compared with "what once hath been." Contracts, it appears, have been entered into by the Magnetic Telegraph Company for the establishment of Mr. Henley's improvements on a great many miles of railway.——If we have doubts about the propriety of ranking the note of progress just made under the head of electro-telegraphic, what shall we say to the following? "A gentleman in Newport, Kentucky, is perfecting an application of electricity for propelling a box containing letters over wires from place to place, on the telegraphic principle. It is said that the experiment over wires of 600 yards in length has worked successfully." We long ago, in a jocular mood, suggested the supersedement of the electric telegraph by the transmission of written paper pellets or letters through an exhausted line of air-tight tubes, a notion afterwards gravely advocated by some of our contemporaries; but the Kentuckian project is certainly an improvement on that. The old woman who expected her umbrella to be forwarded by electric telegraph had evidently an estimation of its capabilities as just as it was profound. She was probably some "wise woman" incog.; and had her hint been acted on, the laurel might have been plucked by anticipation from the Kentuckian temples, ere it, Erinically speaking, had had time either to plant itself or grow upon them.——It is said, that so long since as 1666, one Gilbert published a book, in which he predicted that the day was not far distant when men would be able to communicate from one end of the world to the other by means of electricity.

Miscellaneous Inventions in Wood and Brick Construction, &c.—Mr. George Tate, of Bawtry Hall, Yorkshire, has recently taken out a patent for constructing houses, &c. by fitting together staves, or stave-like and other pieces of timber, or other suitable material, secured together by hoops or other binders or fasteners, built of any suitable size, and fixed, either vertically or horizontally, at any height, upon piles or sleepers. Such houses, or parts, may be formed one within the other, to leave space for the circulation of air, &c. The floors, roof, partitions, &c., are also formed by wedging up stave-like pieces in concentric rings, with an external hoop, and the interstices filled up with glue or other viscous matter, mixed with earthy or mineral substances. [This invention reminds us strongly of one first announced in The Builder some time ago, and which was applicable to bridge building, ships' masts, &c.] The second part refers to machinery for mixing ashes, dust, &c., with house soil for manure, and forcing it out similar to a pug-mill for preparing brick earth. Another to the formation of beams or girders: hay, straw, brushwood, &c., are mixed with animal or mineral viscous matter, and then compressed in moulds for ultimate use, as required. For floating harbours, breakwaters, &c., this material is recommended for its floating power. The specification claims also for constructing rigid suspension bridges, by attaching to the chains cast-iron abutments, and holding down chains of galvanised wire, coated with gutta percha(?), and each link protected by a metal sheath. Another part is for perforating bricks and tiles, and making channels, flues, and pipes in walls, for circulating hot or cold air, and the manufacture of bricks and tiles, by forcing them into moulds, *by the employment of centrifugal force*; also for making ornamental bricks and tiles, by facing those made of common brick-earth with a finer kind of clay, or porcelain, which is to be painted or printed with any architectural device or pattern.

Drainage of Lee.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of Sewers on the 3rd, Captain Dawson, with reference to a letter on this subject in our columns, to which we drew attention last week, made a statement showing the necessity for immediate drainage in that neighbourhood, and called the surveyor, Mr. Cresy, to give evidence on the subject, and elicited from that officer explicit replies with reference to the neighbourhood, its drainage, and the situation of Captain Dawson's residence, which he pointed out on the plan to the Court. The drainage of the place, he stated, is most defective, and the proposed alteration in it would not in any way benefit the captain's property, as it was situate opposite to Lee, the water shed being the other way; nor was it at all connected with Dacre-street, although if the works at Dacre-street, &c., were carried out, he (the captain) would have to pay his share in common with the other inhabitants of the district.

Builders' Benevolent Institution.—Our advertisement columns have apprised those interested in this thriving institution, that the directors have resolved on giving another ball, on 19th February next, in Willis's-rooms. They are now recruiting for stewards, and would be glad to have early additions to the list.

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